

## House Resolution 1940

By: Representatives Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, and Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Buy Local Savannah for its enduring commitment to  
2 strengthening independent businesses and preserving the unique character and economic  
3 vitality of Savannah and Chatham County; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the City of Savannah, Georgia, known for its historic squares, vibrant  
5 waterfront, thriving hospitality industry, and entrepreneurial spirit, is strengthened by the  
6 success of its independent, locally owned businesses; and

7 WHEREAS, Savannah's small businesses contribute significantly to the city's tourism  
8 economy, neighborhood vitality, workforce development, and overall quality of life for  
9 residents and visitors alike; and

10 WHEREAS, Buy Local Savannah was founded in 1999 by a small group of dedicated  
11 business leaders who recognized the importance of organizing to support, advocate for, and  
12 protect Chatham County's independent merchants, shop owners, restaurateurs, and service  
13 providers; and

14 WHEREAS, Buy Local Savannah's mission is to support and empower independent, locally  
15 owned and operated businesses in Chatham County, Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, Buy Local Savannah is committed to preventing the displacement of local  
17 businesses by national and global entities and to providing opportunities for local businesses  
18 to connect, grow, and thrive; and

19 WHEREAS, Buy Local believes that independent businesses make Chatham County unique  
20 and attractive to both residents and visitors and that when independent businesses support  
21 and advocate for one another, the community becomes stronger and more prosperous; and

22 WHEREAS, when residents and visitors choose to buy local in Savannah– whether along  
23 Broughton Street, within neighborhood commercial corridors, in locally owned restaurants,  
24 retail shops, and professional service firms, or throughout Chatham County– they support  
25 their neighbors, from solo entrepreneurs building innovative start-ups to established local  
26 companies employing dozens of Chatham County residents; and

27 WHEREAS, when these locally owned Savannah businesses in turn conduct business with  
28 other local enterprises, revenues and expenditures remain within the local economy, directly  
29 strengthening Savannah's workforce, civic institutions, charitable organizations, and  
30 community life both economically and socially; and

31 WHEREAS, buying local is an act of advocacy that sustains Savannah's distinct culture,  
32 preserves opportunity for entrepreneurs, and ensures that the economic benefits of growth  
33 remain rooted within the community; and

34 WHEREAS, the Georgia House of Representatives recognizes that organizations such as Buy  
35 Local Savannah play a vital role in safeguarding small businesses, protecting local character,  
36 and advancing long-term economic prosperity for the City of Savannah and the State of  
37 Georgia.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
39 the members of this body recognize and commend Buy Local Savannah for its leadership,  
40 advocacy, and unwavering dedication to independent businesses in Savannah and Chatham  
41 County and extend their sincere appreciation for its continued service since its founding in  
42 1999.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
44 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Buy  
45 Local Savannah.